What is claimed:

1. A method of using a relational database to record and retrieve configuration information on a unit of manufacture comprising at least one each of a parts information lookup table, a location information lookup table, and a unit storage table wherein:

    (a) said location information lookup tables provide a list of available locations to place a part in a unit of manufacture and further comprise a location definition lookup table, and

    (b) said parts information lookup tables provide a catalog of parts and further comprise a parts list lookup table used to identify each part, and

    (c) a set of parameter information lookup tables related to said parts list lookup table for defining any number of parameters of information unique to each part, comprised of parameter definition lookup table defining a list of said parameters for each part, which is related to a parameter list lookup table which defines a list of parameters that may be associated with any part in said parts list table, and

    (d) said unit storage tables provide the configuration of a unit of manufacture comprising:

        (i) a unit definition storage table, which is related to said location information lookup table to identify a specific unit of manufacture; and

        (ii) a unit parts list storage table, which is related to one or more of said parts in said parts list information lookup tables to provide a list of parts for each said unit of manufacture, where each part in said unit parts list storage table is assigned a location from said location definition lookup table; and

        (iii) a unit parameter list storage table, which is used to record configuration parameter values for each part in said unit of manufacture, which is related to both said unit parts list storage table and said parameter definition lookup table.

2. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said location definition lookup table is related to a part family definition lookup table which is related to said parts list lookup table for identifying which parts are compatible with each location of said location definition.

3. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said location definition lookup table is related to an equipment type definition lookup table for identifying any number of different types of units of manufacture.

4. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said location definition lookup table is related to a location description lookup table for defining one, or more locations for a type of unit of manufacture.

5. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said parts list lookup table is related to a part type lookup table for grouping said parts into part categories.

6. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said parts in said parts list lookup table are related to a kit definition lookup table for grouping said parts into kits.

7. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said unit parts list storage table is related to a processor group storage table for grouping parts associated with a processor.

8. A method as claimed in claim 1 comprising an interface definition lookup table and a unit interconnect storage table, wherein said parts list lookup table is related to said interface definition lookup table for defining interfaces unique to a part in the parts list, and said unit parts list storage table is related to said unit interconnect storage table, which is related to said interface definition lookup table for defining connections between parts in said unit parts list.

9. A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein said interface definition lookup table is related to an interface family lookup table for identifying compatible mating connections of said parts.

10. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said parameter list lookup table is related to a parameter group definition lookup table for grouping said parameters into parameter categories.

11. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said parameter list lookup table is related to a parameter description look up table for defining multiple groups of parameters, which allow multiple pre-defined configurations of a part.

12. A method of using a relational database, to record and retrieve configuration information on a unit of manufacture comprising, at least one each of a parts information lookup table, a location information lookup table, a unit storage table, and a pair of configuration management storage tables, wherein said pair of configuration management storage tables are linked together, and one of said configuration management storage tables of said pair of linked configuration management storage tables is a configuration management status table and the other is a configuration management memo table;

comprising accessing both of said linked configuration management storage tables by using a first index key, which defines a group of configuration management records for a part definition, location definition, or unit definition, and a second configuration management index key which defines the current configuration management records for a part definition, location definition, or unit location wherein:

(a) said location information lookup tables provide a list of available locations to place a part in a unit of manufacture ,and further comprise a location definition lookup table, and

(b) said parts information lookup tables provide a catalog of parts and further comprise a parts list lookup table used to identify each part, and

(c) a set of parameter information lookup tables related to said parts list lookup table for defining any number of parameters of information unique to each part, comprised of a parameter definition lookup table defining a list of said parameters for each part, which is related to a parameter list lookup table which defines a list of parameters that may be associated with any part in said parts list table; and

(d) said unit storage tables provide the configuration of a unit of manufacture comprising:

(i) a unit definition storage table, which is related to said location information lookup table to identify a specific unit of manufacture, and

(ii) a unit parts list storage table, which is related to one or more of said parts in said parts list information lookup tables to provide a list of parts for each said unit of manufacture, where each part in said unit parts list storage table is assigned a location from said location definition lookup table, and

(iii) a unit parameter list storage table, which is used to record configuration parameter values for each part in said unit of manufacture, which is related to both said unit parts list storage table and said parameter definition lookup table.

13. A method as claimed in claim 12, wherein said location definition lookup table is related to a part family definition lookup table which is related to said parts list lookup table for identifying which parts are compatible with each location of said location definition.

14. A method as claimed in claim 12, wherein said location definition lookup table is related to an equipment type definition lookup table for identifying any number of different types of units of manufacture.

15. A method as claimed in claim 12, wherein said location definition lookup table is related to a location description lookup table for defining one, or more locations for a type of unit of manufacture.

16. A method as claimed in claim 12, wherein said parts list lookup table is related to a part type lookup table for grouping said parts into part categories.

17. A method as claimed in claim 12, wherein said parts in said parts list lookup table are related to a kit definition lookup table for grouping said parts into kits.

18. A method as claimed in claim 12, wherein said unit parts list storage table is related to a processor group storage table for grouping parts associated with a processor.

19. A method as claimed in claim 12, comprising an interface definition lookup table and a unit interconnect storage table, wherein said parts list lookup table is related to said interface definition lookup table for defining interfaces unique to a part in the parts list, and said unit parts list storage table is related to said unit interconnect storage table, which is related to said interface definition lookup table for defining connections between parts in said unit parts list.

20. A method as claimed in claim 19, wherein said interface definition lookup table is related to an interface family lookup table for identifying compatible mating connections of said parts.

21. A method as claimed in claim 12, wherein said parameter list lookup table is related to a parameter group definition lookup table for grouping said parameters into parameter categories.

22. A method as claimed in claim 12, wherein said parameter list lookup table is related to a parameter description look up table for defining multiple groups of parameters, which allow multiple pre-defined configurations of a part.